RECEIVED 11 JAN 1977

★ 38th Year of Publication ★ 30 Paise ★

FREE INDIA

FOUNDER : E. R. GOVINDAN

Vol. XXXVIII | Madras, Sunday, January 16, 1977 | No. 18

Telegram : KAKITHAM   Phone : 26425

Sri Chamundeeswari Waste Paper Co.

180 Anna Pillai Street, MADRAS-600 001.

Preserving Eyesight Of 9 Million People

MASSIVE CAMPAIGN NEEDED

"What is that thing called light ?"

This is the question asked by nearly nine million people in India—many of them living in rural area.

To help them get eyesight or to help those who suffer from eye trouble is no easy task. Isolated efforts by voluntary organisations and noble minded doctors are not enough to solve this problem.

A massive campaign on all India level is needed to help the blind or near-blind says the Times of India in an editorial. It says that ;

It is a sad comment on the sorry state of medical care for the blind that nobody has a clear idea of how many people in the country need such care today. Thus, some experts, going by the internationally accepted definition under which a person is considered blind if he cannot count his fingers at a distance of one and a half metres, feel that many more than nine million people—the official figure—will have to be classified as sightless. Perhaps as many as half a million of them can still regain their sight if they receive prompt attention. Then there are thousands of others, who are at a stage just short of blindness, who can escape the affliction easily if they get the right kind of medical care. The most terrible part of the story is the fate of the 15,000 children who, on an average, lose their sight every year due to a deficient diet. With better medical attention, they can all hope to keep their eyesight.

Only a relentless war against the scourge can save the countless who otherwise will lose their sight. As the president of the recent all-India ophthalmological conference held in Bhopal has pointed out, nothing short of a massive campaign will do. Since most patients are in the villages, the best way is to organise more eye camps at more places every year. Experience has shown that wherever a dedicated surgeon has volunteered to open a camp, the results have been astounding. In

(Contd. on page 7)

Words To Remember

[Excerpts from the speeches of the Prime Minister]

Inaugurating the regional conference of the International Council for Women at New Delhi Mrs Indira Gandhi said that "so far we find that whether it is laws or anything else in society, it has been fashioned according to certain measurements or wants of men."

Mrs Gandhi noted that women's movement had gained in strength all over the world, "although not all of us may approve of some of its extreme forms in the Western countries where emancipation seems to be equated with imitation of men."

"This concept," she said, "we in India reject. To us, emancipation is a liberation from all bondage, the freedom for each to develop as a distinct individual personality, not wanting to be anyone else merely because of applause or blame."

"But let us not be narrow minded like all the generations of men. Let us discuss the question of greater opportunities not only for women but all human beings."

"I entirely agree that laws play a very important role in the guidance of society and in its behaviour. But we in India have found that the best way of achieving anything is by generating mass consciousness and by involving the people at large in nation building and other activities."

"When women by their participation in our struggle for freedom and bearing its hardships proved as capable as men, how could they be put back in cages of subservience."

Social pressure, she said was much more effective than laws and "in India we have seen that laws passed many years ago are still not being properly enforced."

In fact these laws could not be enforced unless the people themselves pointed out any breach of the law and created a public feeling against breaking of the law.

"So important as it is to make laws it is just as important to see that they are enforced not only in letter of the law, but also in the spirit to which that law was made."

Mrs Gandhi told the delegates that any meeting of women must naturally consider the rights of women, the opportunities opening out to them and how to use them for material and intellectual progress.

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

Belief in one God is the corner-stone of all religions. But I do not foresee a time when there would be only one religion on earth in practice.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Jan. 16, 1977

B & C MILLS

The recommendation of the government of India to the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) to sanction an interest-free loan of Rs. 4 crores to the flood-hit Buckinghrm and Carnatic Mills stresses the Indira government's interest in the welfare of workers.

One of the biggest textile mills in the country, employing 13,000 workers, the B & C Mills are expected to reopen in two months.

The IDBI is also likely to advance a soft-loan of Rs. 18 Crores for renovation and modernisation. This is being considered in spite of the fact that the mill has already borrowed Rs. 17 crores from the nationalised banks.

The IDBI has come forward with such generous aid, not with a view to help the management alone. Governor Sukhadia's announcement that the workers who have neither work nor wages "may get something before Pongal" clearly indicates the government's interest.

The workers have a big responsibility now. It is their duty to ensure full production without agitating for any kind of concessions. They must be prepared for all sacrifices to put the mills back on the road to profitability.

With a loan of Rs. 22 crores from the IDBI and another Rs. 17 crores already given by the nationalised banks, the ownership pattern has changed. There is now no basis for the demand that the mills be taken over by the State.

Mismanagement and non-cooperation by labour have been the curse of the once prestigious mills of the State. We hope the floods have lifted the curse.

Telephones : Then And Now

By L. SRINIVASAN

AROUND 1951 when I was first nominated to the Telephone Advisory Committee the scheme of Own Your Telephone was being formulated. The chairman of our committee informed us that a businessman with a wide range of overseas dealings was prepared to pay any price the Department demanded for a connection in his name immediately. His offer was several times higher than the one suggested for O. Y. T. When asked why he was prepared to pay so much, he said that to have the phone number printed in his letterhead carried a lot of prestige and good-will while writing to his counterparts abroad.

I remember the rental per month for the instrument was Rs. 10/- and 12 calls per rupee and payment made within 10 days carried a rebate of 6¼%. In short for a total call of 250 for 3 months the rental was Rs. 30/- and call charges Rs 19/-nett i.e. Rs. 49/- in all. If the bill was paid after 10 days there was no rebate. As on date we pay a rent of Rs. 150/- and if bill is delayed beyond 15 days there is the risk of disconnection without notice.

USERS

There are different kinds of telephone users. Some have mostly incoming calls and make a few outward calls, a few keep the phone with the department under "safe custody" and a few others keep it under lock and key and see that it is used only on occasions and under personal supervision. In all these cases the calls made may be negligible or may be a fraction of the 150 calls charged. In their anxiety to retain the phone facility the subscribers do not thing about this. But it is a source of revenue to the Government for services not utilised and thus the telephone gets a minimum guaranteed income to the Department, without either the personnel or the mechanism wasting their energies.

Till recently a committee was functioning in Madras to assist the general Manager in alloting telephones to special categories. Out of 100 connections available 70 was taken by OYT and the balance was allotted to the special group like doctors public men, public institutions and small scale industries in certain proportions. These come under "Priotity" categories in preference to the general waiting list. The existing vaereancies together with those surrended were pooled for allotment by this committee.

TRANSFER

The transfer of a phone was permissible within a prescribed relations or in case of business when sold with goodwill and phone for over a certain value. Otherwise it is reverted to the Department for allotment by the committee. In this every applicant under special catagory as opproved by the TAC had a fair chance of his turn being reached in stages and he can get a guidance from the office as to his place on the waiting list.

The entire scheme of special category was mooted out to cater to those deserving applicants who should not be burdened with more commitments when the government themselves have come foreward to help them at concessional terms with all facilities. Moreover this was the only and surer way of fostering industrial growth through these entreprenuers. When allotted they paid Rs. 50/- for connection and advance deposit of one year rental. As I said this committee is not now functioning.

Now telephones can be sold within the exchange itself on paying Rs. 500/-to the Department. The applicant who really needs a phone and would have naturally got one sanctioned by the committee in course of time atleast and at a nominal cost of Rs. 50/- plus deposit now has to run after those "selling phones." It is no wonder this has created a new class of people who deseminate information about these "sales". It is not unreasonable to imagine a needy entreprenuer when gets this information "buys" it at any cost on paying usual charges to the Govt. His only satisfaction is that he got it for a far lower price than OYT. Here the Department loses a sizeable income. This procedure has also created an imbalance in the allotment of phones.

SALE

The sale of phone accepted and transfer also effected without any pre-condition. The result is the phone sold by a "sick industry" is likely to be cornered by an enterprising subscriber, least significant in comparison to those waiting for allotments. Where else can he go to get his just claim.

The department is benefited in this financially by every "sale" is a fact and there is no dispute in this. But we must not forget

(Contd. on page 7)

PONGAL MESSAGE

By SWAMI KESAVAIAJI

Our land is essentially an agricultural country, though in recent decades we have been making great progress in Science and Technology to catch up with the advanced nations of the world. Agriculture has necessarily to be the main occupation to sustain the large numbers of our people that inhabit rural areas. Hence the 'Pongal' festival, otherwise known as 'Makara Sankaranti' has a special significance for us. It heralds the emergence of Uttarayanam, the brighter half of the year, as the sun enters the Makara Rasi. Uttarayanam is considered to be a very auspicious period fit for the celebration of happy events. Tradition has it that the great Bhishmapitamaha, the philosopher-warrier, who sustained injuries in the Kurukshetra war between the Pandavas and the Kauravas, was waiting for Uttarayanam to shed off his mortal coil.

Pongal is one of our major national festivals. It is celebrated with great enthusiasm by the farmers. It symbolises the triumph of their arduous labours spread over months. The tillers of the soil form the backbone of our country. It is their toil that provides food and nourishment to the people engaged in all the nation building activities. In a very real sense, they sustain society No wonder therefore that Thiruvalluvar, the saintly author of Thirukkural in Tamil, which enjoys a status as great as that of the Vedas, has characterised agriculture as the best of all occupations. The entire country will have reason to be happy if the agriculturists are happy. Realising this great truth our benign government, both at the Centre and in the State, takes all the necessary steps to better the lot of the farmers

Let us, on the happy occasion of the Pongal festival gratefully remember the noble teachings of Sri Sai Baba who is a friend of the needy and the poor. His Grace will be a great blessing to us at all times, whatever may be the vicissitudes of fortune. I wish every one of our countrymen a happy Pongal. May it usher in an era of progress and prosperity to one and all!

SOUL-PROMOTION

By P. B. SREENIVOS
Cine Play Back Artiste

Man : At the feet of God's Idol, in a Temple:

O! Lord give me lasting fame!
All should remember my great name!
My death any time, Time may cause!
Bells of my fame should never pause!
World should respect my name always!
This is what always my soul prays!

All my deeds were in your name!
Though many of them, bring me shame!
Good deeds were less, sins were more!
You should help me reach the shore!
For my bad deeds I now repent!
Even to dire Hell I may be sent!
But then, my fame or ill-Fame,
Must live ever in pride or shame!
I earned fame as a Great Donor!
I have enjoyed each honour!
Yet, now I feel, it is not all!
My fame should grow without a fall!
What all I did was for fame!
What all I do is for name!
I don't ask you for Salvation,
Give my name endless Ovation.

Leaving the Temple, Man passes through a garden.

Flower : O! My dear Man, Stop for a while!
For your attention, here I smile!
My smile should not fade unnoticed!
My love for you is untarnished!

Man : How are you able to talk like me!
How is it? So much you like me!

Flower : You know very well my name is Rose!
From my grave sleep I just rose!
In my previous birth, I loved
You and your fame and then allowed
My life to be your joy-ride sport,
In your multi-coloured love-court!
For my love you gave hatred,
By you, badly I was cheated!
Pining for you, one day I died,
As I couldn't think of suicide!
My last Wish was to see you again,
By your cruelty, though I was slain!
God has fulfilled my last wish,
Now my love is not selfish!

Man : Pardon me for what I had done to you!
I greet you now with love new.

Flower : Please don't talk of what you don't know!
Love is whiter than pure snow!
Your black mind can't think of love!
You are a bull running after any cow!

Man : I do accept I was that bad,
But now I feel for all that, sad!
Forgive me for my wicked deed,
Forgiveness is that one seed,
From which grows the Repentence-tree,
Cleaning the mind to a great degree!

Flower : Of course, what you said is true,
Tests of Time Man has to go through!
I am glad you do at last repent,
After so many years ill-spent!
You are now free from lust-fire,
But you still have one wrong desire!
I could read your mind like a book,
Just by a sharp and sweeping look!

Man : I know, now you have power divine,
Kindly clear my doubt genuine!
I did not notice your presence,
You noticed my minds absence!

O' my dear Rose, your sweet smile,
No doubt, won my heart for a while!
But now I could read the satire,
Safely dressed in the smile's attire!
Tell me the reason for your smile,
Your smile has got a piercing style!

Flower : You may live for hundred years,
Surrounded by many awful years!
My smile is in fact, shedding tears,
Over your ignorance which is fierce!
Why do you want everlasting fame?
Next century may forget your name!
All those who earned name and fame
Have gone, being pawns in Fate's game!

Man : Fame is what makes man do good,
For fame he will do what all he should!
Why forgot Valmiki's name?
Didn't he earn immortal fame?
Craving for fame is not bad,
After fame, one should not be mad!

Flower : Instead of craving for just fame,
Why don't you chant Almighty's name!
It was Raamnaam which could give
Valmiki's name strength to live!
In the changing pages of Time,
Inspite of his earlier crime!
So my dear Man, chant Lords name,
Leaving the craving for endless fame!

Man : Thank you very much for the advice,
I now feel, fame too is vice!
Of you indeed it is very nice,
Your advice is beyond any price!
I will surely chant Raamnaam,
Which can give the peace and Calm!
May God bless you with Mercy,
Which is vaster than any Sea!

Flower : For me, now, please do a favour,
For me fame has no glamour!
Yet I am not free from desire,
Salvation is my wish entire,
Pluck me kindly with a mind neat,
Place me at the Lords Lotus feet!
Reaching this feet is salvation,
Which gives a permanent solution!

Man : How can I pluck you? It is but true,
You have become my guide and Guru!
You have opened the 'Eye of mind'
Don't ask me to pluck, please be kind!
I can't even think of such a sin,
Now my conscience has to win!

Flower : Some wind surely will blow me away,
Please don't neglect what I say!
Some feet will crush me to death,
Before that I want to cease my breath,
You are now a devotee, if you pluck,
With your holy hands, I will have luck!
To be freed from this mortal Earth,
I get the boon of 'No more birth!'

Man : If that be so, I will pluck you,
May god reward your love, true!
And bless you with salvation,
Which will be my solution!
Between us, there is no difference now,
I am now plucking you, with pure love!

Flower : My birth and my meaningful smile
Have now proved to be not futile!
God will Bless you too with bliss,
Salvation you will not miss!
No more birth for either of us,
This is what our selflessness does!
When one cares and lives for others,
Self-elevation one furthers!
Serving the creation with devotion,
Surely will get soul-promotion!

FUN AND LAUGHTER

THE RUSH

It was the night of the grand concert, and approaching the hour at which it had been advertised to start.

Blobb and Blabb had hired a big hall, and expected to make a big profit.

At seven o'clock, the money-takers, ticket takers, and stewards were assembled.

"Money-takers all ready?" asked Blobb.

"Yes, sir."

"Ticket-takers already?"

"Yes, sir."

"Stewards stand by the door!"

"Right, sir."

"Now open the doors."

The iron doors crashed open. Two small boys entered.

"Please, mister," said a tiny voice, "can we both come in with this free pass?"

* * *

He was surprised to see that his favourite bar had improved in appearance.

"When did you put the new saw-dust on the floor?" he asked.

"That's not sawdust," snapped the barman. "That's last night's furniture."

* * *

"And now," said the photographer, "can you expect me to take the picture of a man who is in Bristol?"

"Well," said the Irishman, "I'd like to know how you took Satan's picture. Did you meet him here."

* * *

THAT WAS WHEN

Medical Officer: "Have you ever had trouble with dyspepsia?"

Recruit: "Only once."

"And when was that?"

"When I tried to spell it."

* * *

THE SAME

"Whenever I see you I think of Smith."

"But I'm not a bit like Smith."

"Yes, you are. You both owe me five pounds."

* * *

THE REASON

"Doesn't it madden you when a girl is slow about getting ready to go to dinner with you?"

"Yes, the longer she takes the hungrier she gets."

L.G
COMPOUNDED ASAFOETIDA
FOREMOST FOOD FLAVOURING AND PRESERVATIVE.
LALJEE GODHOO & CO. MADRAS 1
BOMBAY

SYMPATHY

"And when the boat went down I was swimming for about two hours before I was picked up."

"Oh, how lovely! I adore swimming."

* * *

PROOF

Customer: "And do you recommend this sleeping mixture?"

Chemist: "Yes, sir. We give an alarm clock with every bottle."

* * *

PROCEDURE

"You advertise that you make suits whilst customers wait. Is that so?"

"Yes, you order a suit, pay a deposit, and go home and wait until it is ready."

* * *

"A cigar," said the tobacconist, "is like a play. If it is a bad one, no amount of puffing will make it draw; and if it is a good one, all your friends will ask for a box."

* * *

He: "You don't know how nervous I was when I proposed to you."

She: "And you don't know how nervous I was until you did."

* * *

First sailor: "They say Jone's wife had triplets after reading The 'Three Musketeers.'"

Second sailor: "Good heavens; mine was reading the 'Birth of a Nation' when I left!

* * *

The padre, who had not been feeling well, called in his friend the doctor. The latter vetted him thoroughly and then said, "Well, old chap, your lungs are not in good shape. You'll have to spend six month's in Switzerland."

"But I can't afford the time."

"Well, that's up to you. It's either Switzerland or Heaven."

The padre thought for a long time, and then growled, "Oh, all right then—Switzerland."

* * *

Last year I took 'dig' in Bradford. When I came down in the morning the landlady said to me, "How did you sleep?"

I said, "I didn't sleep all night. I was troubled with insomnia."

She said, "You're a liar. I'll give you £5 for every one you find in the bed."

x x x

"I shan't take these photos,' said the indignant customer, "You make my husband look like a baboon."

"Well, madam," replied the photographer, "that's no fault of mine. You should have thought of that before you had him taken."

HUMOUR

The Laughing Village Of Kurkil

By MAGOMED BUTAYEV

Laughter is like love, it makes the world go round. Wish to get your fill? Then let me take you to Kurkli, a village high up in the mountains of Daghestan, in the Northern Caucasus. The flow of talk is terrific, humour is appreciated over and above all, and good witticisms and wise-cracks are well remembered. Here, they say, a day without a laugh is a day lost. In short, a big grin and humour are viewed as signs of sanity.

So come with me to Kurkli and get a bellyfull of laughs. Laugh and the world laughs with you.

How fond I was in boyhood of cuddling up in my dad's sheep-skins and squatting on a stone bench to listen along with the other kids to all the stories the village ancients had to tell. This was known as the Godekan, a club, community meeting, speaker's corner, and hearty-company—but without toasts and drinks—all rolled up in one. A place where the menfolk congregated after the day was done to discuss every kind of business and affair, from simplest to most complex. And where the men gathered, we curious village urchins would also be.

Though much water has flowed under the bridges since, the Godekan of my childhood years often comes to mind. I always attend it whenever I visit my native village of Kurkli. True, now the people and the things they talk about are much different. And now women also take part—indeed, very much so! What do they discuss today? Politics, TV programmes, sports contacts, motor cars, space exploration, and things like why the Daghestanian "Hill Woman" ballet and "Hill Folk" opera haven't been presented locally, though they have performed in Moscow, Leningrad, and the Daghestan capital of Makhachkala.

Here, now, is a sampling of some of the things heard in my time at the Godekan.

"I'm still as strong as I was in my youth", Ker-Ogly bragged.

"Prove it!"

"See the old grindstone by the windmill? I couldn't pick it up then and I still can't move it now".

* * *

When centenarian Supi Muhammed went sick, his neighbour, an old lady of 90, called only several days later.

"Aren't you ashamed of yourself!" the sick man cried. "Here I've been lying abed for a whole week, and you've only come! A fine neighbour indeed!"

"Well, I was afraid I'd lose my reputation if I went to see a bachelor all alone!"

* * *

A bored fellow-passenger in a Moscow-bound train suggests to elderly Tajudin: "Let's ask questions of one another and if one of us can't answer the other, he'll pay a rouble forfeit."

"Well, son, I didn't get much of a schooling, and you'll clean out my pocket".

"All right, I'll give you ten to your one".

The old man agreed. The younger passenger started of: "What's an atom and what does it consist of?"

Tajudin forked over a rouble without a word.

"Who painted "The Last Supper?"

Another rouble was paid over.

"Well, you ask now", the younger man said.

"What's the name of an animal that climbs up a hill on two legs and comes down on three".

After much thought, the younger man handed over a ten-rouble bill. Then he asked:

"What is it, then?"

Back came a rouble.

* * *

"When are man and wife on good terms?" Osman was asked.

"When he doesn't hear what she says and she doesn't see what he does."

* * *

Little Mohammed to mother: "Ma, I see you have several grey hairs."

"That always happens when children don't behave."

"Oh, now I understand why Granny is quite grey."

* * *

"My dear Tagir," Jalalutin remarked to a garrulous fellow, "to know how to listen is a very precious thing. Not for nothing do we have one tongue, but two ears."

* * *

Teacher to father: "Your boy does poorly in every subject except singing!"

"The little rascall And he thinks that's something to sing about!"

* * *

Husband to wife: "How would you treat a donkey that would earn us a rouble a day?"

"Very nicely, of course."

"Then why shout at me though I earn eleven roubles a day?"

* * *

Woman to neighbour: "Are you sick?"

"Why do you ask?"

"Well, I saw the doctor coming out of your house this morning."

"Oh! Say, you're not going to join the army, are you?"

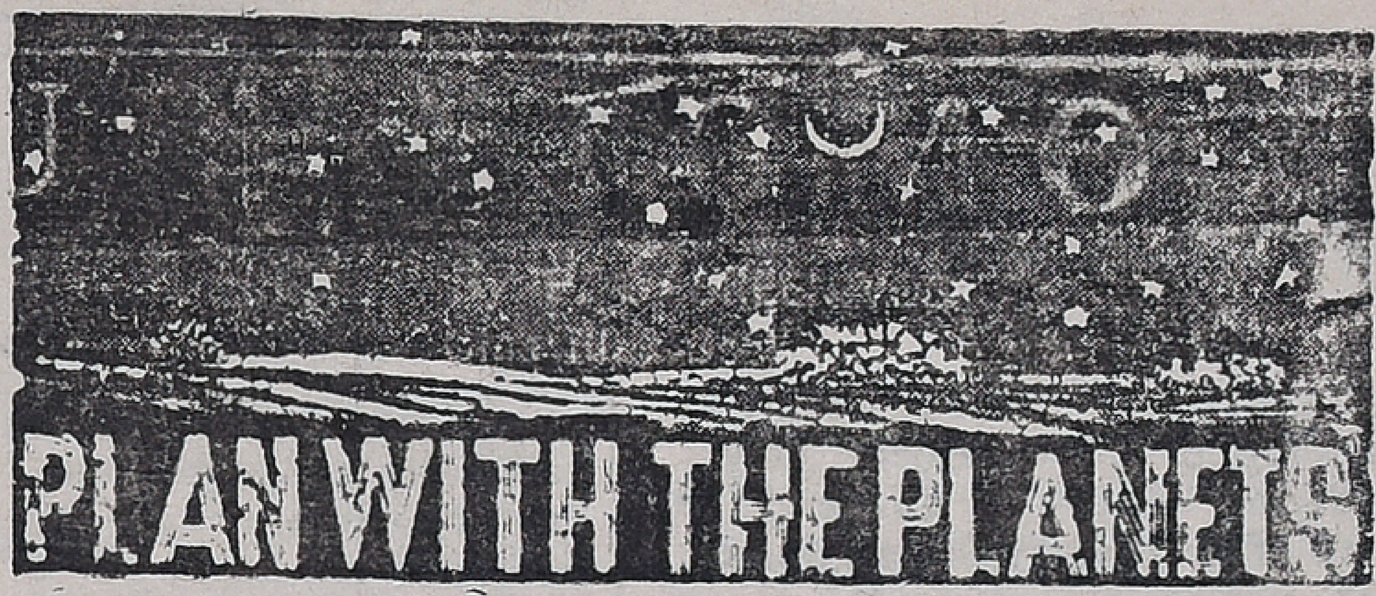
"What do you mean?"

"Well, I saw an officer going into your house last night!"

* * *

"How can one stay healthy?" Rasul was asked.

"Look as long as you can at green grass, flowing water and pretty women."



For The Week 16th January, To 22nd, January 19 7

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme and also to start new ventures. Promotional prospects are bright. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Property matters require attention. Partnership matters should be finalised. Family members will be coopera-tive. You may be getting news from your associates living in foreign countries. Favourable days: 20th & 21st.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

THERE will be improvement in business conditions. You will be able to solve some of your problems this week. Financial position will improve, but avoid speculative investments. Problems relating to transport and communication are indicated. You should also be cautious in dealing with matters connected with younger brothers and sisters. You may have to undertake a long journey shortly. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 16th & 17th.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

MIXED results are indicated. You should be cautious in dealing with officialdom. Legal matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Family matters require attention. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Property matters should be finalised after consulting legal experts to avoid complications later. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 18th & 19th.

★

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

FAVOURABLE period. You should try to implement your programme as early as possible. But avoid friction with associates. You should be cautious in dealing with offical matters. Health requires attention. You can expect cooperation from family members. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments. Also avoid long journeys. Unexpected developments are indicated on 20th & 21st.

★

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. Partnership matters could be finanlsed. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Property matters could be finalised. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Change of place is indicated for some. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

MIXED results are indicated. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid legal complications later. Partnership matters requires attention. Matters relating to children could be finalised. You will be able to solve some of your problems by the end of February. Favourable days: 20th & 21st.

★

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

FAVOURABLE period. You should try to implement your plans as early as possible. But you should consult legal experts before finalising important matters. Property matters require attention. Partnership matters could be finalised. You can expect cooperation from family members. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Financial position will improve. Favourable days: 16th & 17th.

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for anorher two months to implement your major plans. Avoid friction with associates. Also avoid over strain. Health requires attention. Matters relating to children should be handled properly to avoid complications. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

MIXED results are indicated. Avoid legal compliations. There will be an improvement in financiall position. Speculative gains are also indicated. Matters relating to children could be finalised. But partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Poperty matters could be finalised. Health will show signs of improvement. Avoid friction with family members. Favourable days: 20th & 21st.

★

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana Dhanistha 1/2

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. You should try to make use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. You should also try to start new ventures. Promotional possibilities are bright. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Change of place is indicated for some. You can expect cooperation from family members. Property matters could be finalised. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadrapada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadrapada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your programme. Avoid friction with associates. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid legal complications. Health will show signs of improvement. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Also avoid journeys, unless necessary. Favourable days: 16th & 17th.

★

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

FAVOURABLE period. You will be able to solve some of your financial problems. Speculative gains are also indicated. You can expect cooperation from family members. Promotional possibilities are bright. You should also try to start new ventures. You may be undertaking a journey shortly. Property matters could be finalised. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

FREE INDIA
Phone: 85304
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

6 Months	Rs. 7 50
1 Year	Rs. 15 00

Single Copy 30 Ps.
OUTSIDE INDIA

6 Months	Rs. 25
1 Year	Rs. 50

Please send your Subscription by M. O., P.O, or BANK DRAFT

Payable to

FREE INDIA PVT LTD.
Circulation Manager
FREE INDIA WEEKLY
MOUNT ROAD,
MADRAS-600002.

BHEL-German Collaboration

Hamburg:– Kraftwerk Union a Siemens-led power station consortium, and India's Bharat Heavy Electricals took two years to negotiate the terms of a fifteen-year cooperation agreement on the construction of 350-to 500-megawatt turbine generators. Kraftwerk Union will supply the know-how, with Indian specialists undergoing training both in India and in the Federal Republic of Germany. The initial target is an output of four or five 500-megawatt generators by 1982.

Kraftwerk Union will receive in payment a lump sum of 7.3 million deutschmarks, plus four per cent of the value of combined output in licence fees, which should amount to 12,500 million rupees or 140 million deutschmarks over the full period at a conservative estimate. In lieu of cash India will be suyplying power station equipment, turbine and generator parts in part-payment of licence fees.

Bharat Heavy Electricals intend not only to meet India's energy requirements but also to gain access to world markets as a supplier of complete power stations. Between now and the end of the century India's domestic power requirements alone will increase from 20 million to an estimated 200 million kilowatts.

Kraftwerk Union were awarded this bumper contract despite competition from General Electric of the United States, GEC of Britain and others. Bharat have recently sold boilers, generators and power stations to Malaysia, New Zealand and Libya, so the Indian firm must be taken seriously. It was the result of a merger a little over a decade ago and began by developing technology imported from the Soviet Union.

Kraftwerk Union are interested in long-term cooperation willing to stomach 'lean years' in conjunction with a powerful partner. Bharat Heavy Electricals have already proved a bright pupil who is quick to learn and capitalise on new-found knowledge.

The Ram And The She-Wolf

(AN UZBEK TALE)

Once upon a time an extremely cruel Khan threw into jail a totally innocent poor young man. The prisoner's friends and relatives begged the Khan to set him free, but the khan declared :

"On one condition."

And he ordered that the prisoner be brought before him.

"Listen, young man," said the khan. "I shall give you one lean ram and food for it for a month In a month's time I shall have it weighed and it must weigh no more than it does today. If it is any heavier, I shall have your head chopped off."

The young man agreed and a corner was set aside in the palace for him.

The prisoner very quickly realized that the khan's order was impossible to fulfil. He went sadly out into the street and there he saw a hunched-up little old man.
He told him about his plight.

"Don't worry, son," the old man said. "There is a way out. Catch a she-wolf and tie her up in front of the ram. No matter how much it eats, it will be too frightened to grow fat."

The young man obeyed. Scared to death by the presence of its mortal enemy, the poor ram ate halfheartedly and stopped putting on weight. When a month had passed and the khan ordered the ram weighed, he saw that its weight had not changed. And so he had to set the young man free.

AUTUMN

By N. SLADKOV

"Friends," wise Raven said one morning, "autumn is coming. Are you ready?"

"Ready, ready, ready," came from all over the forest.

"We'll see," Raven croaked. "Autumn will begin by letting out the cold. What will you do?"

The animals answered :

"We squirrels, hares, foxes will put on winter coats."

"We badgers and racoons will hide in cosy holes."

"We hedgehogs and bats will fall fast asleep."

The birds said :

"Some of us will fly away to warm weather."

"We that stay behind will line our feathers with down."

"Then", Raven warned, "autumn will start tearing down the leaves."

"Let him," the birds said. "We'll be able to see the berries better."

"We don't mind," the animals agreed, "the forest will be quieter."

"And then," Raven continued, "he will kill the insects."

"We blackbirds will feed on mountain ash."

"We woodpeckers will shell cones.".

"We goldfinches will peck at weeds."

The animals said :

"Without the flies and mosquitos we'll sleep quietly."

"After that," Raven said, "autumn will make life dull. He will bring dark clouds and will make rains fall and the dreary winds blow. Days will become shorter, because Autumn will hide the sun."

"Oh, let him," the birds and animals shouted together. "We aren't afraid at all, we don't care about rains and winds when we have our fur coats and down jacks on. And as long as we are not hungry, we can't be in a bad mood."

Wise Raven wanted to say something else but changed his mind. He flapped his wings and flew away.

A brightly coloured leaf carpet spread underneath. Autumn had already come. But everyone was prepared for him.

Pigeon Racing Records

Tbilisi (USSR) : A group of racing pigeons for the first time flew over the Caucasian range. They were released in a village of Georgia, flew over four-five-thousand-metre high mountains and landed at a distance of 2,000 kilometres from the place they were released near the home of their master Pyotr Demidenko in the Ukraine.

Demidenko's pigeons have taken part in competitions for only three years now. They have already been awarded sixteen medals and tens of honorary diplomas. One of the birds of the 40-year-old pigeon-breeder has recently set an all-Union record by covering 858 kilometres in nine hours and a half. Another pigeon covered a short distance at a speed of 120 kilometres an hour. At present, preparations are under way for the release of pigeons over a super-long distance of 3,000 kilometres.

"Tagil Madonna"

Moscow: In Nizhni Tagil, a city sprawling at the foot of the Urals, fifty-two years ago a painting was found, later called the "Madonna of Tagil".

In 1924, the grime-covered board where one could discern the outlines of a madonna with a child and Joseph was given over to restorers. Running along the collar of the Madonna's dress was an inscription in gold: "Painted by Raphael of Urbino in 1509."

The finding became a world sensation. Scholars made a suggestion that it was the legendary "Madonna del Popolo" by Raphael Santi.

Academician Grabar, who was given the picture, wrote that its history was so complicated and episodes of its half-fantastic life so involved, with fact and fiction so mixed up in them, that the account is more like an interesting and absorbing novel than an impassioned chronicle... The characters of that "novel" included Popes, cardinals, emperors, kings, art connoisseurs and admirers, as well as experts and charlatans.

Now the "Madonna del Popolo" painted by the great Raphael is being shown for the first time after restoration in the halls of the Nizhni Tagil museum of fine arts. The first to see a masterpiece of world art were rightfully the inhabitants of the city who not only gave the painting a second lease of life, but also a new name–the "Madonna of Tagil".

Dashboard radar

Frankfurt (Main) – The Bonn government has contributed 2.35 million deutschmarks towards the cost of developing a dashboard radar system to give motorists early warning of obstacles ahead. The radar antennae are incorporated in the radiator grill. The device is specially designed to ignore harmless obstacles spotted by the radar beam. It can also be adjusted to weather conditions, since a greater safety distance is essential in bad weather.

From Page 2

the fact that the recent developments in the system like minimum calls, STD etc are all contributory factors in bringing in more revenues to the department than they would have either imagined or expected.

The capital investment may be fairly sizeable but the recurring income consequent on its continuous use and dependence will after a few years will recover the initial cost and leave a surplus. What would have served with a telegram of Rs. 2/- in earlier years is now risen to several times more by the use of STD. What would have been finished in a Fixed Time Call is now done under several STD calls and bulk of these calls are warranted by the expansion of trade and also of time factor.

The department has not only made things handy and created all inducements to use the phone to the maximum but have also progressively increased the rate per call from 15 paise to 30 paise. This is also one more feather in their cap to earn a sizeable income.

DIRECTORY

The telephone exchanges are expanded and new ones opened. Re-alignment of boundaries of the present exchanges are made often. The cumulative effect is that every month or two, sizeable number of new connections are given and a good portion is shifted to other exchanges. In these days of expanding activities and also of a search for fresh avenues to develop trade and commerce anybody will be naturally and justifiably anxious to know the list of additions and deletions from which he can pick and choose. The directory was once printed once in six months, later once a year and in the present trend we fear it may be once in two years. The department must print the new additions and deletions every quarter and post them along with the bill. This will cost next to nothing when we think of a fresh directory and it will also satisfy the new subscribers. Otherwise the "possession" of phone is defeated.

The government may say the subscriber may dial 197 for new additions. Without knowing the actual names the roving enquiry will lead us nowhere. On top of this 197 is metered. If a concession is made that dialling 197 for new names be not metered or if not the caller should be connected to that number. These two concessions were asked for and negatived in one of the meetings of the TAC.

BILLING

We often hear of over-billing. The STD facility has to an extent contributed to this. Because of STD and also of not placing the receiver evenly after the STD call are true to an extent. Making allowance for these we feel the "customer is always right" but unfortunately his famous saying is given a "go bye.". The bill comes once in three months and it is difficult to locate the mistake and verify from our end. I suggest a Bi-monthly meter reading be supplied to subscribers on request for a nominal sum. It will give them a chance to know where the "shoe pinches" It will also save the department from a lot of embarrassment and odium. Now the reading is given for a particular date on request. It must be made a regular feature.

In conclusion I suggest that the system of TAC be revived. In all other departments the advisory suggestions made by these bodies are implemented in a fair measure. It is a tribute to the unbiassed and impassionate thinking of these committees. But TAC alone singled out and be made obsolete.

In short this article reduces to the revival of TAC, sale of phones to be regulated through TAC (with the present changes), Quarterly publication of new additions and deletions and also extending the facility to subscribers to have bi-monthly meter reading for cast.

SOLEMNIZE EVENT

"How shall we celebrate our wedding anniversary?"

"How about two minutes' silence?"

* * *

"Walter, there's no chicken in this chicken soup."

"Well did you ever find horse in horse-radish?"

* * *

"No, I'm afraid we have no vacancies at present. Come back in five years from now."

"Morning or afternoon?"

* * *

"What would you say if I asked you to marry me, Doris?"

"Nothing, I can't talk and faint at the same time."

"Kamban Arangam" Inaugurated

An auditorium in honour of the great Tamil poet Kamban, author of the immortal classic Kambaramayanam was opened by Mr. Justice S. Maharajan on the New Year Day at VGP Golden Beach Resort. Mr. Mt. IP. Somasundaram (Somu) presided over the function.

Mr. Panneerdas welcomed the aarge gathering of journalists and other invitees. He said Kamban was an emperor among poets and Kambaramayanam considered a great poetical work.

Messrs. Kumari Anandan and Tamilvanan also spoke explaining the poetical grandeur and richness of Kambaramayana verses.

At the suggestion of Mr. Somu, Mr. Panneerdas agreed to erect a statue for Rasikamani T.K.C. who tirelessly propagated the greatness of Kambanamayanam.

Mr. Panneerdas in his speech mentioned that there was great demand in foreign countries for our medicinal herbs, polished coloured stones, buffalo horns, handloom bedspreads and handicrafts. In this connection, he said, his brother Mr. V. G. Selvaraj is currently touring East Asian countries.

Mr. V. G. Santhosham proposed a vote of thanks.

Mr. Vembu, editor of Amudasurabhi praised Panneerdas Bros. for their laudable schemes.

From page 1

camps lasting three weeks some surgeons have indeed been able to restore the sight of 1,200 people at the cost of only Rs. 30 per head. In these makeshift camps, patients can even be operated for cataract.

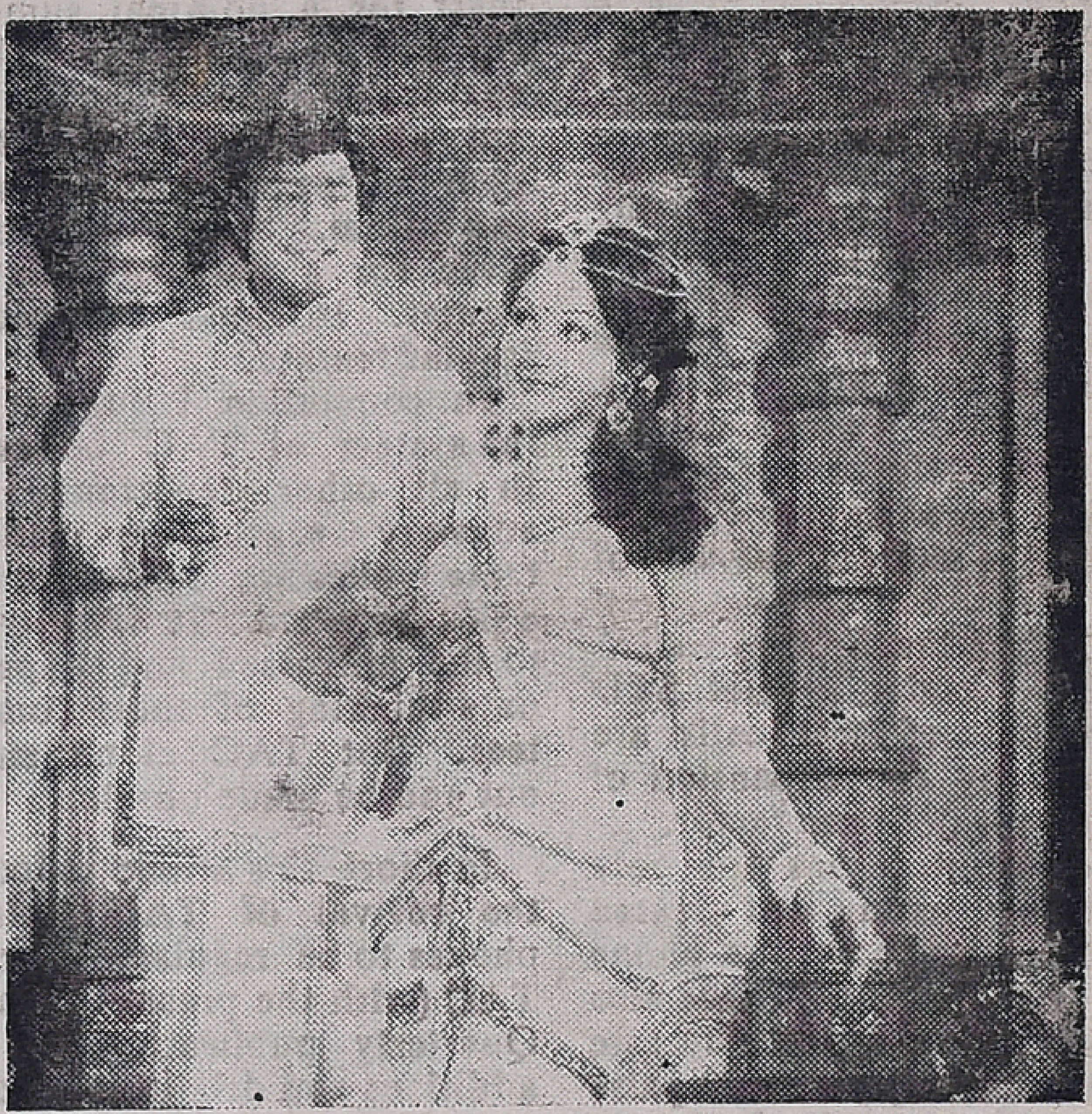
So far as small children are concerned, arrangements need to be made to give them Vitamin-A tablets regularly. This can be done at a cost of no more than one rupee per child per year. Such a scheme, in fact, is under way only in a few states; it deserves to be adopted throughout the country.

The trouble is that though there are 3,000 ophthalmologists in the country, the services of only a thousand or so are now available to rural people—and that too only for brief periods. As many speakers at the Bhopal conference has emphasised, one way of improving matters is to teach all M.B.B.S. graduates (most of whom become general practitiners) to treat eye ailments as well instead of having to refer all cases to a specialist. But even such a measure will be of limited value, since most GPs today prefer to practise in cities. Hence the only effective way to tackle this problem—as indeed, every other concerning health—is to turn out very many more para-medical workers who are in constant touch with villagers and are thus able either to treat persons with eye diseases themselves or to refer them to the nearest primary health centre or district hospital. Such workers can also maintain records of a patient's progress and report this to the health authorities as also help villagers through proper advise on nutrition and hygiene.

Srimathi and Sri P. V. Pandurangan, Manager, Sri Vupputur Alwar Chetty's Charities, Madras, celebrated the marriage of their daughter Leela Kumari with R. Vasudevan, D. M. E., son of Sri Potta Ranganatham Chetty of Vellore, recently at Madras.

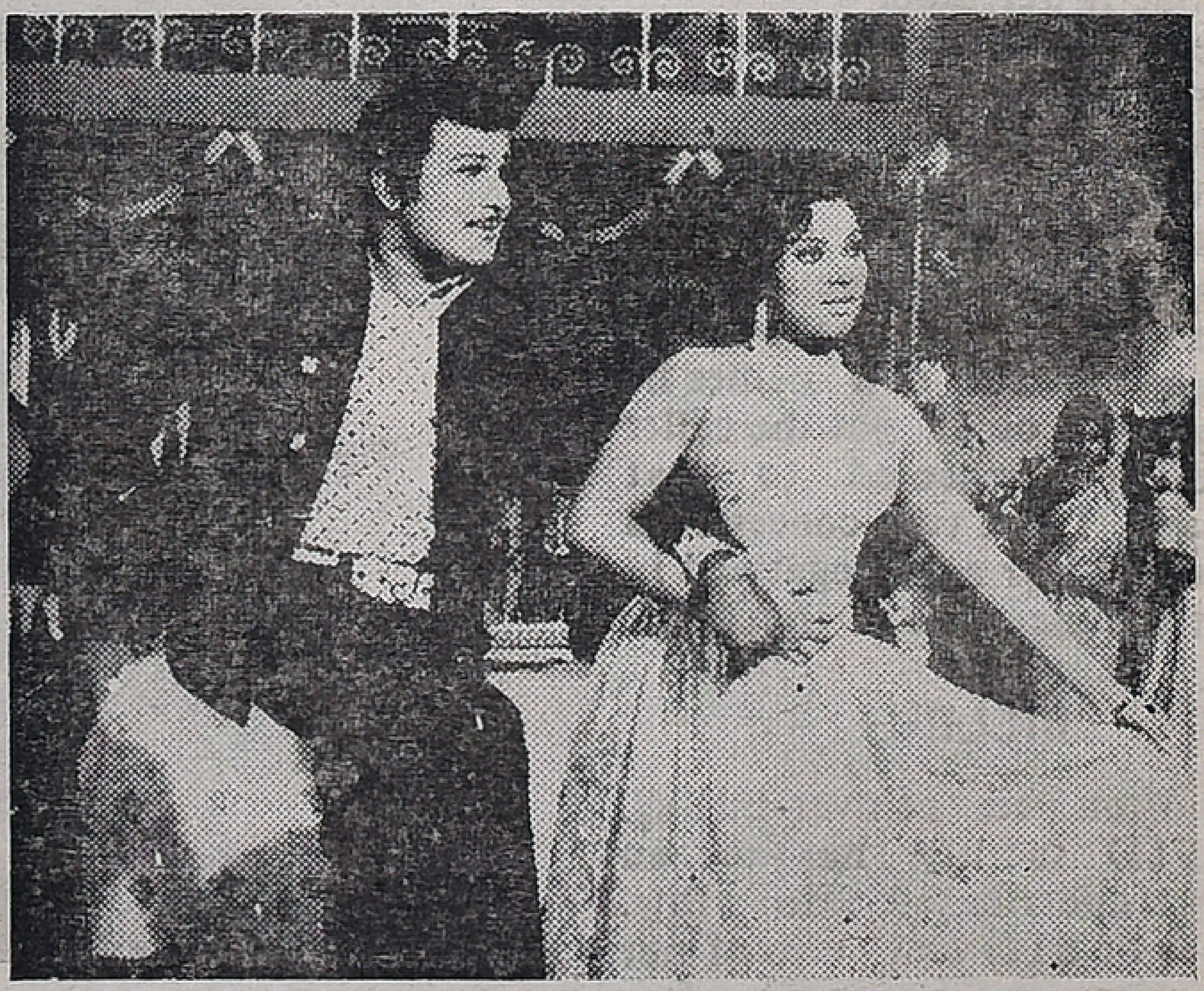
FILM NEWS IN PICTURES

Sujatha as she appears in Anandhi Films' "Balapparitchai".



Sivaji Ganesan and Manjula in Gomathi Shankar Pictures' "Avan Oru Sarithiram", a Pongal release.

Chandr akala and S. S. Rajendran are in a happy mood in Pasumponn Pictures' "Chandramohan".



Sripriya and Jaisankar in the Tamil film "Sonthamadi Nee Enakku".

NATIONAL CIRCUS

S. I. A. A. GROUNDS

(BEHIND MOORE MARKET)

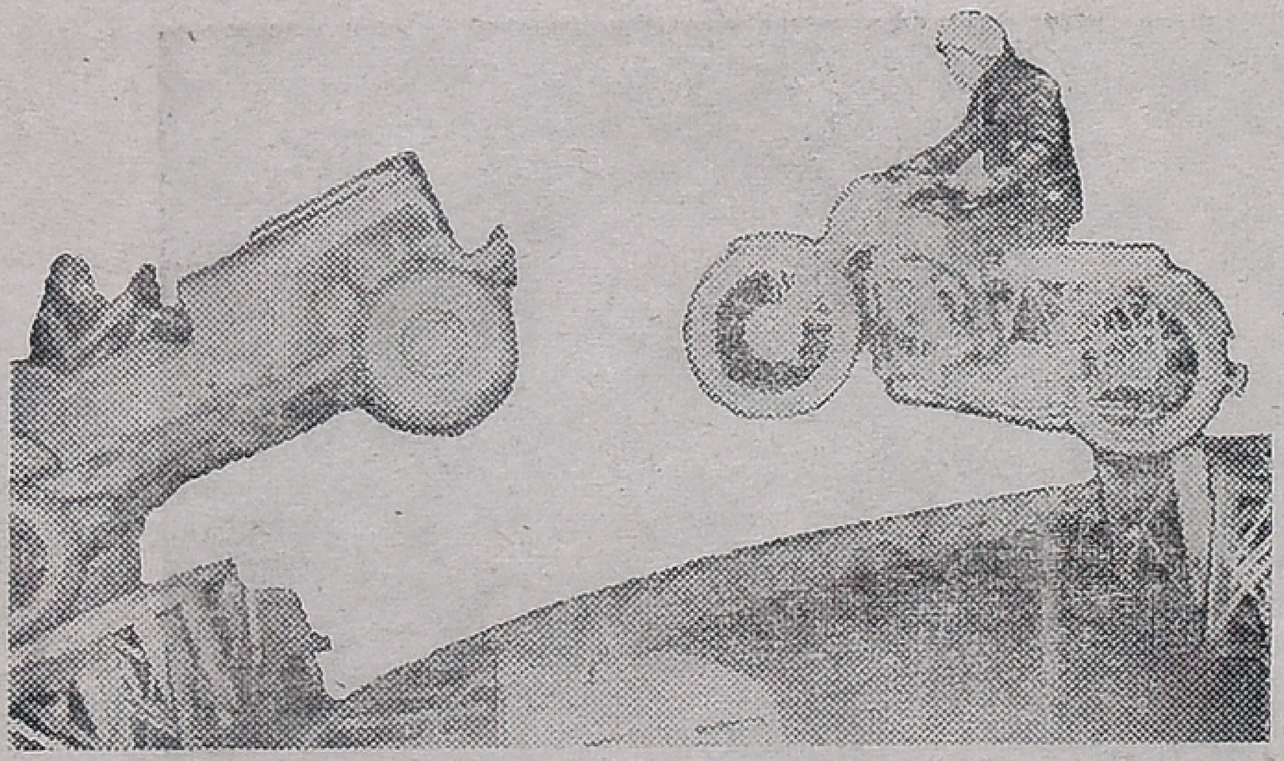
Phone : 33845

WISHES ALL PATRONS

" SWEET AND HAPPY PONGAL "

Make this Pongal more sweeter and memorable to your children by witnessing our shows !

FULL OF FUN AND THRILLS ! !



Daily 3 Shows : 1-30, 4-30 and 7-30

Rates : Rs. 6-00, 4-50, 3-00, 1-50 and Ladies Re. 1-00

BOOK YOUR SEAT IN ADVANCE

AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Advance Booking for Rs. 6-00 & 4-50

From 9 A. M. - 12 Noon and 2 P. M. - 5 P. M.

Printed and Published for the Free India Private Ltd., by G. Rangarajan at the Free India Press, 77, General Patters Road, Mount Road, Madras-600002. Editor: D. Krishnamurthy